child sexual abuse is a **preventable** public health problem
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2020 and 2021 were uniquely difficult for us as nursing home providers. We have remained determined to deliver high-quality and humane care, all while COVID-19 has created the most challenging season our business has ever faced. From the moment the pandemic began, we have been consumed with trying to navigate a global crisis and keep a vulnerable population as safe as possible.

Through this challenging time, we have taken great joy in the progress we see at the Moore Center. We are thrilled with the partnerships the Center has developed with other organizations committed to the prevention of child sexual abuse and with the role we’ve been able to play in that process. We are so very grateful to see Oak Foundation invest real resources in our efforts, with the largest single gift the field has ever seen. Human Dignity Foundation also gave us significant encouragement with their transformational gift this last fall.

Generous support is extremely important for the Moore Center and its work. It’s also tremendously validating to us as philanthropists. We gladly answered Johns Hopkins’ call for founding donors for the Center ten years ago because we have seen the powerful impact of prevention in a public health setting. We knew it would take time and significant effort to engage other major donors in our cause. Now, we’re delighted to see Oak and Human Dignity join us, bringing new resources that will help elevate our research, education, and advocacy to new levels of relevance and impact.

We have always hoped and expected that the Center’s success would build on itself, creating a virtuous cycle in which new resources and in-house capacity would begin reinforcing each other. The momentum is building toward new waves of funding—from donors who can give a few dollars to voice their support, to foundations that can transform the prevention landscape, to other philanthropists who can envision the possibilities, to even the annual budget allocations now coming forward from the United States Congress. Each and every one of these wins is so important. They each bring us closer to mainstreaming the insight that child sexual abuse can and must be prevented.

To this end, we are pleased to announce that we made the decision to invest into the future of the Moore Center. We have pledged $1.25 million, to be matched by an anonymous donor, for a total $2.5 million gift to endow the position of Director Elizabeth J. Letourneau, PhD. This gift will secure the leadership in the prevention of child sexual abuse in perpetuity. We hope it will inspire others to give more.

We initially started this work with the desire of protecting others from a similar pain to what our family faced. That bedrock principle is a constant in our work, and in our continuing, enthusiastic support for the Moore Center.

We are ever grateful to be able to work with Elizabeth Letourneau as the Center’s inspiring leader.

It’s also very clear that no one organization, certainly no one donor, will be able to solve this problem on their own. The mix of skills, resources and approaches across many organizations has been critical to our success. We are so very pleased with all these working partnerships, and with all that we have achieved together—and as we enter into the tenth anniversary year, we are excited to discover what is next.

Sincerely,
Dr. Stephen and Mrs. Julia Moore
Founding Donors
After a time of challenge and adversity, the Moore Center for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse is emerging strong, resilient, and with renewed momentum to confront a crisis that did not pause while the COVID-19 pandemic was upon us.

2020 and 2021 were tough years for the Moore Center and our partners, with the devastation of the pandemic coinciding with a deep reckoning with issues including systemic racism and inequity. This period had a real and meaningful impact on our individual lives, and on the work that we love.

Yet also during this time the world seemed to recognize, finally, that child sexual abuse is a preventable public health problem. Institutions and decision-makers dedicated real resources to this issue. It’s a long-overdue, truly fundamental change. It’s accelerating. And the evidence is all around us:

The Moore Center launched a number of new perpetration prevention efforts, including an evaluation of our Help Wanted prevention program and a project funded by a $10.3 million grant from Oak Foundation to evaluate and disseminate other effective perpetration prevention strategies worldwide. In addition, we are working to establish the first-ever child sexual abuse perpetration prevalence estimates in numerous countries thanks to generous support from Human Dignity Foundation.

As the leader of a broad coalition, the Moore Center helped build legislative support for a new line item in the 2020 U.S. federal budget for $1 million to the CDC to support child sexual abuse prevention research. In 2021 we saw the budget increase to $1.5 million, and in 2022 we hope to see it increase to $2 million.

Governments in several countries took meaningful steps to prevent child sexual abuse, with the European Union developing resources on perpetration prevention, New Zealand and the Czech Republic designing new primary prevention interventions, the United Kingdom funding substantial prevention efforts, and Australia continuing to lead the way with deep investments in prevention and intervention.

All of this activity has made the past two years, while challenging, a remarkable time to be leading child sexual abuse prevention efforts. What makes me most excited and hopeful is supporting and watching the development of the next generation of experts in this field. Already, we’ve brought together a team of three faculty, two post-doctoral researchers, and several pre-doctoral students, all funded to work full-time on child sexual abuse prevention. That’s utterly groundbreaking, and it’s an inspiration and a joy every day to see these enthusiastic, incredibly sharp early career professionals begin to lead their own projects. All of this was made possible because of the dedicated support of our founding donors, Dr. Stephen and Mrs. Julia Moore. Their 10 years of transformational support culminated this year with a $2.5 million endowment to the Moore Center, and we could not be more grateful to them for their continuing, enthusiastic support.

In this report, I hope you will find a sense of enthusiasm about the work that is already underway, and the continuing urgency to put prevention at the center of every community’s response to child sexual abuse. We look forward to learning how we can work together to achieve that goal.

Elizabeth J. Letourneau, PhD
Director
Our Mission

The mission of the Moore Center for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse is to support and conduct research, educate and be educated by policymakers and the public, and cultivate partnerships with organizations to develop proven strategies that prevent child sexual abuse.

Our Vision

Our vision is a world without child sexual abuse. Child sexual abuse is a preventable, not inevitable, public health problem. We believe that everyone shares the responsibility for prevention, and everyone benefits when children remain safe from abuse.

Our Strategy

The RECAP Framework: Five fundamental steps that have been applied to public health challenges across the United States and around the world that we apply to the task of preventing child sexual abuse:

- **Research** to advance the primary prevention of child sexual abuse, including the development and rigorous evaluation of prevention interventions;
- **Education** for and from policymakers, funders, advocates, educators, health and social service practitioners, media, parents, and other stakeholders;
- **Communication** that delivers clear, unbiased, objective information on all aspects of child sexual abuse, including victimization, perpetration, and prevention;
- **Advocacy** that secures resources and support for evidence-based policies and practices that prevent child sexual abuse;
- **Policy** efforts that support effective public health approaches to child sexual abuse prevention.
From Knowledge to Action:

Oak Foundation Awards Five-Year, $10.3-Million Grant for Global Perpetration Prevention

One of the most important steps the Moore Center has taken toward the prevention of child sexual abuse was to launch a long-term program to identify, validate, and disseminate child sexual abuse perpetration prevention programs worldwide. In March 2021, Oak Foundation funded a five-year, $10.3-million grant for this work. This grant is believed to be the single largest child sexual abuse prevention investment ever.

The Global Perpetration Prevention Project: Translating Knowledge into Action includes developing an online capacity-building hub to encourage widespread adoption of effective child sexual abuse perpetration prevention strategies. Working with the Royal Ottawa Health Care Group, the Moore Center will summarize empirical evidence for policymakers, practitioners, and other stakeholders looking to implement perpetration prevention programs in new regions and countries and provide consultation and other resources.

“Since its inception in 2012, the Moore Center has taken effective public health approaches to address and mitigate child sexual abuse,” said Ellen J. MacKenzie, PhD, ScM, dean of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. “Yet this harm toward children is still all too common. This generous award from Oak Foundation will allow the Moore Center to build on its outstanding research and preventive strategies, not just here in the U.S., but worldwide.”

“This award is transformative. This is the type of investment for the type of work needed to truly prevent child sexual abuse from happening in the first place and to keep children safe,” said Elizabeth J. Letourneau, PhD, director of the Moore Center and co-principal investigator for the award. “This funding will help us evaluate the most promising programs and then build global capacity to implement the effective programs. This project is more than research—it translates to action.”

University and school leadership and Moore Center donors and collaborators offered their congratulations upon learning about the award. Ronald J. Daniels, president of Johns Hopkins University, called the grant “tremendously wonderful news.” Julia Moore, founding donor of the Moore Center said, “I am thrilled, delighted, giddy with the news! I am just in awe of all that has been accomplished.”

The Global Perpetration Prevention Project is a collaboration between the Moore Center and Michael Seto, PhD, forensic research director, Royal Ottawa Health Care Group. Seto is a leading investigator on pedophilia and online child sexual exploitation and abuse whose work has helped identify factors that increase or decrease risk that people with sexual interest in children will act on that interest.

“We see a unique and world-changing opportunity to prevent child sexual abuse from occurring in the first place by investing in a program of work focused on identifying, evaluating, and promoting effective perpetration prevention strategies,” said Seto. “Our goal is to see the prevention of child sexual abuse on governmental agendas everywhere.”
First-Ever Global Study Looks at Prevalence of Child Sexual Abuse Perpetration

In another first, the Moore Center announced in November 2021 that it is launching a five-year study to develop estimates of the prevalence of child sexual abuse perpetration in at least six countries.

The project, made possible by generous support from Human Dignity Foundation, will yield methodologies that can be replicated across diverse regions, while delivering the statistical cornerstone to prevent child sexual abuse before it happens.

“There is an established four-step approach to preventing any public health risk, and the first step is to understand its prevalence,” said Moore Center Director Elizabeth J. Letourneau, PhD. “But there has never been funding to rigorously evaluate prevalence or identify different risk and protective factors associated with perpetration that could point toward the best prevention pathways.”

Now, she added “there is new hope for sparing countless potential victims the pain of child sexual abuse and exploitation and preventing potential perpetrators the legal and moral consequences of engaging in abusive behaviors.”

HUMAN DIGNITY FOUNDATION

The Moore Center is taking on this ambitious study in collaboration with Michael Seto, PhD, forensic research director of the Royal Ottawa Health Care Group, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the University of Edinburgh's global data institute for child safety.

“Globally, we do not understand the nature or scale of child sexual abuse perpetration,” said Dr. John Climax, founder and chair of Human Dignity Foundation. “This stark reality provides the backdrop to this vital research initiative. Understanding the risk factors of perpetration will help us prevent it from happening in the first place.”

He added that the Moore Center “will establish best in class methods for the collection of this sensitive data,” delivering research results that “challenge leaders in the public and private sectors to prioritize the prevention of abuse.”
Moore Center Annual Symposium
Returns Virtually in 2021

The Moore Center annual symposium, Child Sexual Abuse, a Public Health Perspective, returned online in April 2021 in partnership with Darkness to Light and with support from the Monique Burr Foundation for Children. This virtual conference focused on how strategic collaboration is critical to advancing child sexual abuse prevention.

The event drew nearly 400 attendees from around the world, including child advocates, public health and prevention professionals, and people interested in learning more about protecting children from sexual abuse.

In the keynote, Bridgette De Lay, JD, director of Prevent Child Abuse Programme, OAK Foundation, compared child sexual abuse to COVID-19 in scale and consequence, but not response. “Child sexual abuse is preventable,” she said. “And as imperfect as it is, COVID provides us a shining example of the power of humanity to tackle a crisis in record speed, when we need to and when we want to. We need this same political commitment to advance child sexual abuse prevention.”

Other speakers included:

- Sarah Christofferson, PhD, PGDipClinPsyc, director of clinical training, University of Canterbury
- Helena Duch, PhD, head of Solutions Sub-Programme, Prevent Child Abuse Programme, OAK Foundation
- Keith Kaufman, PhD, professor of psychology, Portland State University and consultant, U.S. Center for Safe Sport
- Queenie Nichols, former director, U.S. Paralympics Swimming
- Christoffer Rahm, MD, principal investigator, Karolinska Institute
- Michael Seto, PhD, forensic research director, Royal Ottawa Health Care Group
- Zach Shattuck, athlete, U.S. Paralympics Swimming
Research

The last two years have been incredibly busy and successful for the Moore Center’s research program, with a cascade of news and activity on projects, publications, and well-deserved recognition for the talented researchers on our team.

Prevention

Global Perpetration Prevention: Translating Knowledge into Action is a five-year program that began in March 2021 and is funded by a $10.3 million grant from Oak Foundation. The project will identify, validate, and disseminate perpetration prevention programs worldwide. As part of this effort, the Center will launch an online capacity-building hub to encourage widespread adoption of effective child sexual abuse perpetration prevention strategies. This hub will summarize the empirical evidence for policymakers, practitioners, and other stakeholders looking to implement perpetration prevention programs in new regions and provide consultation and other resources. Read more about this effort on page 4.

Responsible Behavior with Younger Children is a middle school prevention program designed to reduce the prevalence of child sexual abuse by providing students, and their parents and educators, with the knowledge and skills to promote appropriate and responsible behaviors with younger children and peers. In a pilot randomized controlled trial, RBYC participants demonstrated increased knowledge about the behaviors that constitute child sexual abuse, the laws surrounding child sexual abuse, and consent, compared to students who did not receive the program. They also showed increased behavioral interventions to prevent child sexual abuse and peer sexual harassment.

In 2021, the Moore Center received a grant from the World Childhood Foundation to adapt RBYC for youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities in collaboration with Kennedy Krieger Institute.

Help Wanted is an online self-help intervention for people with a sexual attraction to children. Help Wanted has received an overwhelming, positive response since it launched in May 2020 as an online prevention program for individuals with sexual attraction to children. The website received over 215,000 visits in just 18 months, including more than 8,400 people who accessed the Help Wanted intervention content designed to help them live safe, healthy, fulfilling lives. The site has expanded to include curriculum transcripts in Spanish, Arabic, Hindi, French, and Chinese, as well as English.

In 2021, the Moore Center received a research grant from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to optimize the program based on visitor feedback and to evaluate the efficacy of the Help Wanted program in the context of a rigorous randomized controlled trial. Learn more about Help Wanted at helpwantedprevention.org.
Online Resources for Families and Individuals to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse were compiled and shared by the Center during the height of the COVID-19 lockdown in May 2020. These resources were designed to address the increased risk for online offending due to adults and children spending more time online for work, education, and recreation and the increased risk for offending perpetrated by household members as adults and children spent more time confined together and include information targeted to families and to individuals concerned about their own sexual feelings involving children.

Learn more about this project.

Perpetration Prevalence

The Perpetration Prevalence Project is a first-of-its-kind study to estimate the scope of child sexual exploitation and abuse perpetration that began in Fall 2021 and is funded by Human Dignity Foundation. In partnership with the Royal Ottawa Health Care Group and the CDC, the team will develop a perpetration module to be added to the CDC’s Violence Against Children Surveys in three countries and a stand-alone perpetration survey to be implemented in three additional countries. From the survey data, they will generate estimates of perpetration prevalence and incidence and establish risk and protective factors that influence abuse perpetration. Read more about this effort on page 5.

Organization-focused

Preventing child sexual abuse in the context of national youth serving organizations is a project designed to systematically catalog and classify current youth serving organizations’ child sexual abuse prevention strategies, compare how these strategies align with national and international recommendations, and develop a novel set of best practice recommendations.

In 2020-2021, an online desk guide designed to reduce the risk of child sexual abuse in organizational settings was made available to the public. Funded by the Bloomberg American Health Initiative, the guide sets out eight core principles to help YSOs protect children from sexual abuse.

The National Children’s Alliance, which certifies 900+ Children’s Advocacy Centers across the U.S., used the Leadership Desk Guide to inform the establishment of their internal child safeguarding practices. In addition, methodology and findings from this project influenced the CDC’s ongoing work to update their 2007 guidelines to prevent child sexual abuse in organizational settings.

Learn more about this project.

In 2019, the Moore Center received a three-year grant from the CDC to develop a national survey to evaluate the effects of youth serving organizations’ child sexual abuse prevention efforts on youth safety. Data collection is currently underway.
Communications

Changing the Paradigm: Child Sexual Abuse as a Preventable Public Health Problem is conducted in partnership with the FrameWorks Institute and consists of consolidating expert knowledge about child sexual abuse prevention and developing new messaging to improve the way researchers communicate about child sexual abuse as a preventable public health problem.

Policy

The National Evaluation of Medicaid Expansion on the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, Youth Violence, and Intimate Partner Violence is a CDC-funded project dedicated to studying the effects of the federal Medicaid expansion policy on multiple forms of violence including child maltreatment and youth violence.

Other

The Disparities Study explores the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System to study the racial and gender disparities in child maltreatment in the United States.

Publications

For details about research published by the Moore Center for Child Sexual Abuse in 2021 and 2020, visit our website.
The Moore Center’s policy and advocacy efforts center on two goals:

**Goal 1: Increase federal funding for child sexual abuse prevention research.**

Since 2018, we have worked with a Washington, DC-based advocacy partner, CRD Associates. This collaboration, in partnership with a large coalition of like-minded organizations has yielded significant results. In 2020, the federal budget included a new line item for $1 million to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in support of child sexual abuse prevention research. The line item was increased to $1.5 million for 2021 and was allocated at $2 million for 2022. Our goal is to reach $10 million.

**Goal 2: Support evidence-based policies.**

We seek the elimination of juvenile sex offender registration. Research led by several Moore Center faculty and others conclusively demonstrates registration policies fail to improve public safety and are associated with significant harm to the children who are subjected to these policies. These harms include increased risk of suicide attempts and sexual assault victimization. Our findings were widely cited by the American Law Institute in the revised Model Penal Code, which recommends the elimination of juvenile registration. In 2022 we hope to engage another advocacy partner with juvenile justice expertise to work toward the removal of children from federal registration requirements.
Giving for the Future

Moore Center benefactors Dr. Stephen and Mrs. Julia Moore believe in the Center’s mission to prevent child sexual abuse. Their most recent gift, the center’s first endowment, helps ensure that the center’s transformational work will continue.

In December 2021 the Moores pledged $1.25 million to be matched by an anonymous donor, for a total of $2.5 million to create an endowed professorship fund for the director of the Moore Center. The gift is an investment into the leadership of the Moore Center and ensures the position in perpetuity.

"Prevention is such a powerful and hopeful model," said Dr. Stephen Moore. "Julia and I are so grateful that we can work with the team to develop the science of prevention, and we remain ever hopeful that the work of the Moore Center will have a positive impact on people’s’ lives throughout the world.”

If you are interested in joining the Moores in supporting a gift to further the mission of the Moore Center for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse, please contact Joanna Schofield at jschofield@jhu.edu.

Our Donors

Donors have always been a crucial part of the Moore Center community, enabling us to deepen and broaden our impact and extend our reach. During a time when regular funding streams have been disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, private philanthropy has been critical to our ability to meet and sustain our prevention mission. We are deeply grateful for the investment our donors are making to support our cutting-edge research, interventions, and advocacy.

In addition to the numerous research grants the Center received, we experienced two strong years of support from private contributions. In 2020, we received $824,918 from 12 donors. As of today, we have recorded $2,780,075 from 22 donors in 2021. Without a solid base of committed donors who appreciate our public health approach to the prevention of child sexual abuse, it would be impossible to move this important work forward. Thank you!
Faculty, Staff, and Students

Elizabeth J. Letourneau, PhD
Director

Luciana Assini-Meytin, PhD
Assistant Scientist

Maria Blackburn
Communications and Marketing Manager

Abigail R. DeSilva, MSW
Senior Research Program Coordinator

Rebecca Fix, PhD
Assistant Scientist

Christina Knepper, LCSW-C
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Ericka Muempfer, MA
Research Associate

Reshmi Nair, PhD
Assistant Scientist

Amanda Ruzicka, MA
Director of Research Operations

Joanna Schofield
Associate Director of Development

Yi Sun, MPH, MS
Research Data Manager

Recognition

Here’s how Moore Center faculty, staff, and students were recognized for their work in 2020 and 2021:

Luciana Assini-Meytin, PhD was named Fellow of the Society for Prevention Research’s Early Career Prevention Scientist Training Program and appointed to the Advisory Group for the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, co-led by UNICEF and Save the Children.

Rebecca Fix, PhD was invited to serve on the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers Race, Power, and Privilege Work Group, the Johns Hopkins Behavioral Health Intervention Plan Advisory Committee, and appointed to the Anti-Racism Teach-in Series Subcommittee at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Together Luciana Assini-Meytin, PhD and Rebecca Fix, PhD were recognized in 2020 and 2021 with excellence in teaching for the Summer Institute course “Childhood Victimization: An Overview of Public Health Efforts.”

Maggie Ingram, PhD accepted a position as a health scientist at the CDC Foundation. In her new role she will contribute to a portfolio of research aimed at the primary prevention of child sexual abuse.

Elizabeth J. Letourneau, PhD was appointed to the European Commission’s Expert Network for Child Sexual Abuse Prevention and was recommended for appointment to the Scientific Advisory Board for the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention Center of Injury Prevention and Control. Her appointment is pending approval by the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Reshmi Nair, PhD was named director of data and analytics at the Moore Center and was elected Faculty Senate Representative for 2020-2022, Department of Mental Health, and began a new collaboration with the Major Extremity Trauma Research Consortium group at Johns Hopkins.

Amanda Ruzicka, MA was promoted to director of research operations at the Moore Center and senior research associate in the Department of Mental Health.